

## **ABSTRACT**

A stringed instrument featuring one or more contoured surfaces is claimed. The instrument features a body with a neck that supports strings tautly oriented across the front face of the instrument. Either the front, back, or both faces of the instrument are contoured or skewed such as to improve the ergonomic aspects of the instrument. In use, the ergonomic design facilitates a user reaching over the back top side to strum the strings, and allows the whole instrument to be rolled slightly towards the user at the top side. This also effectively tilts the string supporting neck in an ergonomically effective manner. The skewed body may be curved at its ends or have essentially straight ends skewed from each other.